

2/19/16

Appropriations Committee
Connecticut General Assembly

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Governor's budget recommendation for the Legislative Commission on Aging, as outlined in Bill No. 5044. As a volunteer member of the Commission, I am writing to you at this time to express my support of Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging as it continues its vital and important work. The Commission, as you know, provides the Legislature with important information regarding programs crucial to the lives of older adults in Connecticut. The Commission continues to represent the concerns of older citizens by providing crucial legislative information, coordinating data gathering processes and helping draft policy that all have served to improve the daily lives of older adults. One well-recognized example of this is the impact the Commission has had on the Money Follows the Person program and other pioneering efforts to rebalance the long-term services and supports system, prioritizing funding and policy focus on home and community-based supports versus institutional settings.

As we all begin to experience the dramatic aging of the population nationally and in Connecticut, in particular, the need for the Commission and its professional staff has never been more crucial. It would be demographic shortsightedness not to support the efforts of the Commission. To paraphrase Winston Churchill, "Never before has so much been owed by so many to so few." Clearly, this is a sentiment that I am sure older citizens and legislators can understand. Finally, please realize that the efforts of the Commission and its professional staff, in particular, impact all of us whether directly or by effecting a friend or relative as we all get older.

I submit this information as testimony before the Appropriations Committee as it recognizes the important work of the Commission on Aging.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
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